

# ON-FINAL

OCTOBER 2017

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING

## OKIES SUPPORT HURRICANE RECOVERY EFFORTS



## COVER

### TINKER RESERVE AIRMEN DEPLOY TO AID FLORIDA RECOVERY

Eight Reserve Citizen Airmen of the 35th Combat Communications Squadron departed Sep. 13, 2017 to support disaster relief efforts at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, where they will provide military commanders and government agencies communications systems in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

Story by Jon Parker  
Photos by Greg L. Davis

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LAYOUT BY TECH. SGT. SAMANTHA MATHISON

# VIDEO: OKIES BRING THE BOOM



In honor of the Air Force's 70th Anniversary and the 507th Air Refueling Wing's 45th anniversary, a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 507th ARW performed a flyover Sept. 16, 2017, at the University of Oklahoma vs. Tulane football game held in the Gaylord Family Oklahoma Memorial Stadium in Norman, Oklahoma.

After the flyover, the aircrew and communications team were recognized on the field in front of 86,290 football fans in attendance.





# Reserve **RECRUITERS**

**GET 1 NOW**



Senior Master Sgt.  
Donald Cantrell  
Flight Chief  
Tinker AFB, OK  
Office (405) 734-5331  
Cell (405) 409-4784



Master Sgt.  
Cody Newsom  
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Tinker AFB, OK  
Cell (719) 243-6709



Master Sgt.  
Nicklette Hunter  
Line Recruiter  
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Master Sgt.  
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Recruiter  
Altus, OK  
Cell (405) 409-5170



Tech. Sgt.  
Joseph Salley  
Line Recruiter  
Midwest City, OK  
Cell (405) 409-5811

**For information on opportunities in the AF Reserve,  
give one of our team members a call today.**



**DOWNLOAD THE  
MOBILE APP TODAY  
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REWARDS.**



**IOS USERS**



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## **OCTOBER UTA OCT. 14-15**

ATSO EXERCISE - OCT. 14-15

3RD QUARTERLY AWARDS DUE - OCT. 9

CIV OF QTR DUE - OCT. 15

TRICK OR TREAT CITY  
JOE B. BARNES REGIONAL PARK  
MIDWEST CITY @ 1400-1630 - OCT. 28

## **NOVEMBER UTA NOV. 4-5**

GLOBAL THUNDER

OPERATION HOLIDAY SPIRIT @ 1800  
AMERICAN LEGION/VFW, DEL CITY - NOV. 4

COMMANDER'S CALL, BASE THEATER @1500 - NOV. 4

MIDWEST CITY VETERAN'S DAY PARADE - NOV. 10

## **DECEMBER UTA DEC. 2-3**

ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS PARTY  
NORMAN VETERANS CENTER @ TIME TBD - DATE TBD

## **JANUARY UTA JAN. 6-7**

CIV OF QTR DUE - JAN. 15

## **FEBRUARY UTA FEB. 3-4**

COMMANDER'S CALL, BASE THEATER @1500 - FEB. 3

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET @ TIME TBD - FEB. 3

## **MARCH UTA MAR. 3-4**

## **APRIL "SUPER UTA" APR. 5-8**

**Do you have an event to add?**

[Contact us at 507arw.pa2@us.af.mil](mailto:507arw.pa2@us.af.mil)



# SMALL RESERVE UNIT RACES HURRICANE TO PUERTO RICO

Story by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason



**T**he 1st Aviation Standards Flight, a small Reserve unit from Oklahoma, raced Hurricane Maria to Puerto Rico on Sept. 19, 2017, to evacuate air traffic controllers before the strongest storm in 85 years made landfall.

## 2 PILOTS

Transporting personnel and equipment



Debris piles in front of a local park in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, due to Hurricane Maria, Sept. 28, 2017. (U.S. Air National Guard photo/Tech. Sgt. Gregory Ferreira)

Federal Aviation Administration air traffic controllers work at San Juan Center, Puerto Rico, Sept. 27, 2017. (U.S. Air National Guard photo/Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton)



*"I flew the Bombardier Challenger to evacuate 8 air traffic controllers out of Puerto Rico before Hurricane Maria"*

*-Lt. Col. Greg Baur*

For the full story,  
**CLICK HERE**



# ATSO:NOTE TO SUPERVISORS

by Lt. Col. Elizabeth Kettler  
Director of Operations, 507th Inspector General

**S**upervisors, are you ready for this? Our Ability to Survive and Operate exercise is Saturday UTA in October. While not everyone will be participating, everyone should don Mission-Oriented Protective Posture gear during their unit specific training, which will be held from 0930-1100. Supervisors, we need you to maximize this time for training your Airmen in MOPP gear. Here are some things that might help:

**1** A general training plan has been developed by your unit. Find it, know it and then make sure you are ready to train your Airmen.

**2** Not everyone has to stay in MOPP gear during this time. While some Airmen are being observed, others can doff their gear. It's your scheduled time to get your Airmen some training in MOPP. You can cycle them through, or you can conduct the training all at once. It's your hour and half, please use it wisely.

**3** The wing and vice commanders will be walking around to observe training in action. Be sure if they are in your area, you showcase what your Airmen are doing and encourage your Airmen to show off their skills.

**4** Document the training in the Airmen's training record. Remember that some units require personnel to be able to operate in a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear environment.

**5** Last, but not least, the Inspector General has mandated that operational readiness exercises are back and here to stay. More guidance will eventually make its way down, but for now, know they are looking at ORE's with a phase one and phase two approach; but this changes nothing regarding our planned ATSO event.

Remember that the main goal of this ATSO exercise is to train our Airmen in operational readiness. As global threats increase, we need to strengthen our ATSO muscle memory. We need to be prepared and this graded exercise is our first step.

Supervisors, thank you for providing training and documenting your Airmen's records. More importantly, thank you for being flexible as we implement and embrace the Air Force Inspection System program. Know that you are making a difference. May God continue to bless you, the men and women of the 507th ARW and the great nation we serve.



*Members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing demonstrate the ability to survive and operate under hostile conditions June 8, 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Lauren Gleason)*





19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
**HOLIDAY SPIRIT**  
**STEAK SUPPER**

Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
American Legion/VFW Post  
5000 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Del City  
Time: 6:00 to 10:00 PM  
Price \$30.00

Menu: Your choice of steak or chicken will be served with  
baked potato, green beans, salad and cheese cake.  
Beverages: Cash bar provided (no outside beverages)

TICKETS:

Takesha Williams, Angi Vereb, Steve Rosebrook, Laura  
Santiago, Arlene Nilkumhang, Ralph Hawkins, Larry  
DeSalle, Beth Collins, Joe Wade, Stephanie Heath,  
Michelle Bonilla

Proceeds to benefit  
Operation Holiday Spirit



A CLOSER



**Tech. Sgt. Steven Young**

**507TH AIR REFUELING WING  
FLIGHT CHIEF, TRAINING DEVELOPMENT FLIGHT**

**WHAT IS A LITTLE KNOWN FACT ABOUT YOU?**

I've jumped out of an aircraft by parachute over 30 times.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER IN A MOVIE?**

My favorite superhero is Batman.

**AS A KID, WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB?**

I wanted to be an Astronaut.

**WHAT IS YOUR CAREER GOAL?**

To earn the rank of chief master sgt. and complete my master's degree in business administration.

**WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?**

I like to cook on the grill, exercise, read and practice mixed martial arts.

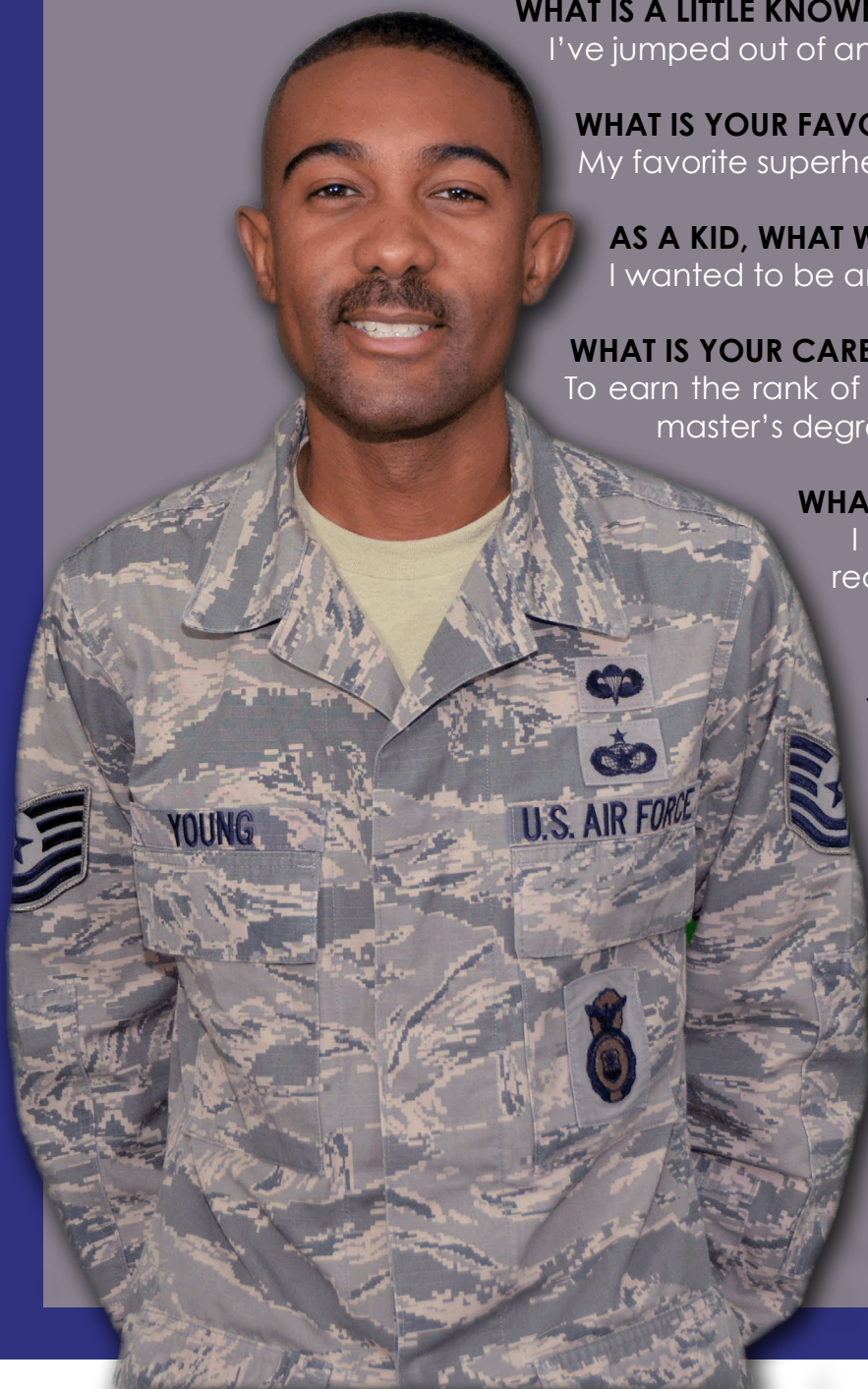
**WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?**

Preparing our future Airmen every UTA to transition from undisciplined civilians to professional Airmen.

**WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEXT 'CLOSER LOOK'?**

[EMAIL YOUR SUBMISSION HERE](#)

*Tech. Sgt. Steven Young stands for a photo Oct. 12, 2017, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison)*





# October PROMOTIONS

## MASTER SERGEANT



LANDON ROTHER, 507 AMXS  
BRIAN GREEN, 513 MXS  
JOHN RUMBAUGH, 507 AMXS  
JOEL EDWARDS, 507 OG  
AARON HOSKINS, 970 AACs  
JOSE MARTINEZ, 507 AMXS

## TECHNICAL SERGEANT



LARRY DRAKE, 507 LRS  
DOUGLAS HALE, 970 AACs  
BRITTANY WEBB, 513 OSS  
MICHAEL DILLON, 507 MXS  
TERRY COOPER, 507 LRS  
LACIE BROWN, 970 AACs  
JESUS LERMA, 507 AMXS  
JOSHUA DORSEY, 513 AMXS  
DAMIEN TOOLE, 513 AMXS

## STAFF SERGEANT



BRANDY HILL, 465 ARS  
JULIANNA DIVETT, 507 MDS  
ALEX BEATTIE, 507 CES  
WALTER ORDONEZ, 72 APS  
MAGGIE GREEN, 507 MDS  
JOHNNY NGUYEN, 507 CES  
KRYSTAL WOLFE, 507 SFS  
MERCEDES RICHIE, 513 AMXS  
REBECCA MACCHIO, 507 FSS



## AIRMAN FIRST CLASS

BRIANA PLUNKETT, 507 LRS

## SENIOR AIRMAN



KENNEDY HUMPHREY, 507 MDS  
CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT, 507 FSS  
CALLUM BAIRD, 507 SFS  
WILLIAM OSBORNE, 507 SFS  
JABOREE KIEL, 507 SFS



## AIRMAN

ELIZA JOHNSON, 507 LRS

# AIRMAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL: AN OKIE'S EXPERIENCE

by Senior Airman Jeannie Franks  
507th Force Support Squadron Lodging Assistant

Recently, I had the opportunity to complete Airman Leadership School at Edwards Air Force Base, California. The experience did more than revitalize leadership skills obtained during Basic Military Training and technical school. It also helped me take a hard look at the leader I have become.

When I first arrived to ALS, I was selected as the class leader of 37 Airmen from the millennial generation. I learned a great deal from them and we had great teamwork throughout the entire course. The class was divided into three flights and it was part of my job to keep them connected through participation and communication. I had to keep everyone updated and able to communicate in a cost effective manner.

As the days went by, I was delighted to observe how other Airmen stepped up, volunteering to help each other and exercising the core values; making us look good during reveille, retreat and anytime we were out in public.

As the class leader, it was inspiring to know I had a full range of seasoned enlisted and officer Airmen supporting the ALS mission. The class was blessed to have a few members of the Air Force Honor Guard, two civilians, an engineer and a budget analyst who all excelled. The class was rich in different backgrounds, which made diversity a strong facet of our experience. I was challenged to find ways to make our differences work for the mission; not against it.

Ultimately, everyone who wears the Air Force uniform is serving the same purpose: To fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace. The in-residence ALS program brought people together to reinforce the mindset needed to win wars without forgetting the human condition.

On graduation day, I was blessed with the opportunity to sing the National Anthem, deliver the Invocation and give my last command as class leader.



To those soon-to-be ALS class leaders: Your job will be more rewarding than you expect. Keep up a good attitude and energy level, and if you need advice, please look me up.

I am back at my home station and this year, we are celebrating Tinker AFB's 75th anniversary. As a surprise to me, Midwest City, where I reside, is also celebrating 75 years. How good it is to know that both Tinker AFB and Midwest City have been in partnership since their development.

God, keep the blessings coming.



# TINKER RESERVE AIRMEN DEPLOY TO AID FLORIDA RECOVERY

Story by Jon Parker



*A C-17A Globemaster III from the 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Air Force Reserve Command, moves in front of the iconic skyline of downtown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma after loading equipment and members of the 35th Combat Communications Squadron Sept. 13, 2017, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. (U.S. Air Force photo/Greg L. Davis)*

**E**ight Reserve Citizen Airmen of the 35th Combat Communications Squadron departed Sep. 13, 2017, to support disaster relief efforts at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, where they provided military commanders and government agencies communications systems in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

*Airmen from the 72nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, aerial port section, push palletized cargo into the tail of C-17A Globemaster III of the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, as members of the 35th Combat Communications Squadron deploy as part of the Air Force's Hurricane Irma response and recovery operations Sept. 13, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/Greg L. Davis)*



For the full story,  
**CLICK HERE**



# OKIE DEFENDERS RETURN HOME

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison



Reserve defenders from the 507th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces Squadron reunite with friends and family Oct. 1, 2017, at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City, following a six-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.



For more photos, [CLICK HERE](#)



# *Welcome to the 507th*

Justin Wolfe takes the commissioning oath Sept. 29, 2017, administered by his spouse, 1st Lt. Aaron Wolfe, 507th Mission Support Group executive officer.

Justin commissioned as a 1st Lt. and will join the 507th Medical Squadron as a nurse. Welcome to the team!



Members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing gather to congratulate Justin Wolfe on his commissioning Sept. 29, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Kathelene Mercado)



# “THE OZ PRINCIPLE”

By the 507th Mission Support Group Staff

*“That’s how we have always done it.”*

*“It’s not my job.”*

*“It’s not my fault.”*

These phrases continually cause organizational failure and overall mistrust for customers. We, as leaders, spend an immense amount of time talking about process improvement and how to champion culture change. However, it seems our focus lends itself more to organization level evaluation or large-process examination, and less on the individuals inside these organizations and processes.

Our mission starts with the people on the front line; the individuals. If they are not willing or capable of overcoming obstacles or circumstances, then issues rise to a higher level in the organization and call for a mentoring opportunity.

In the book, “The Oz Principle, Getting Results through Individual and Organizational Accountability,” by Roger Connors, Tom Smith and Craig Hickman, the perspective of the individual and the impact they make is explained. The authors used characters from “The Wizard of Oz,” by L. Frank Baum, who found themselves as victims of circumstance. It was not until the end of the story that each character discovered they already possessed courage, heart, wisdom and the means to succeed. According to Connors, Smith and Hickman, the characters came to believe “people hold inside themselves the power to rise above their circumstances and get the results they want.”

The Oz Principle explains how some people find themselves in what is called a ‘victim cycle.’ The authors used an example of a line between accountability and victimization that “separates rising above your circumstances to get the results you want versus falling into the victim cycle where you can easily get stuck.”

So, how do we break the cycle? As leaders, we must foster a change in culture that moves from the victim mindset to focus on accountability. You may ask what this means, exactly. To understand, let’s look at the definition of accountability: “A personal choice to rise above one’s circumstances and demonstrate the ownership necessary for achieving desired results — to see it, own it, solve it and do it.”

However, to initiate a culture change, we must first look at ourselves and evaluate what side of the line we fall on. Do we conduct ourselves as victims in a continuous cycle? Or are we accountable for our own actions? When we as leaders conduct ourselves as accountable, then we can mentor our people to do the same.

Leadership is not easy because it takes a mindset of continuous learning and understanding. It’s looking at our own actions, decisions and outlook; followed by an evaluation for growth and improvement.

Leadership is also encouraging. It allows us to come up short in front of our peers, subordinates and supervision. However, good leadership is shown in how we handle ourselves and continue to grow from all situations.



*Senior Airman Micheal Thomas, 507th Security Forces Squadron, provides armed overwatch for contractors and air advisors, April 16, 2017, at Kandahar Air Wing, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Katherine Spessa)*

In closing, our military has no room for phrases like, “that’s how we have always done it,” “it’s not my job,” and “it’s not my fault.” We are all here to fly, fight and win. In order to maintain an accountability mindset from the front line of the organization to leadership, we must remain vigilant.



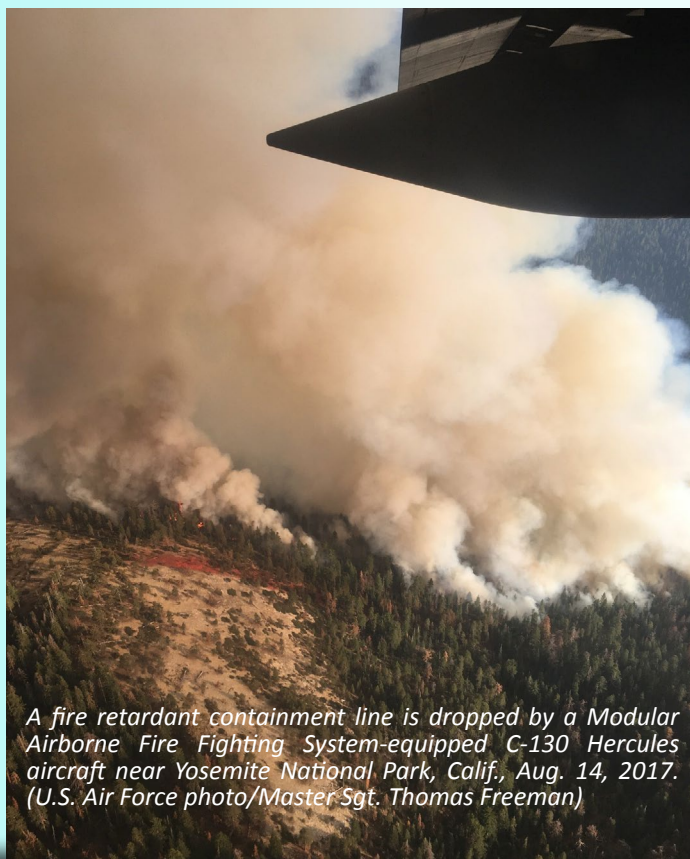
# Reserve Citizen Airmen OWN THE SKIES



*A modified U.S. C-130 aircraft, assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing, sprays water simulating a pesticide solution during a field exercise as part of the Department of Defense Aerial Spray Certification Course, Jan. 13, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.)*

For the first time in the nearly 70-year history of the Air Force Reserve, all three special mission units have been called to action simultaneously due to a series of catastrophic events that have affected wide swaths of the U.S. Reserve Citizen Airmen from across the country are conducting weather reconnaissance, aerial spray and airborne firefighting missions concurrently at different geographic locations.

**For the full story, [CLICK HERE](#)**



*A fire retardant containment line is dropped by a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System-equipped C-130 Hercules aircraft near Yosemite National Park, Calif., Aug. 14, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Thomas Freeman)*



*Tech. Sgt. Karen Moore, a loadmaster for the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, prepares a dropsonde to be released into the eyewall of Hurricane Irma. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Nicholas Monteleone)*

PLAY the VIDEO



# FINI-FLIGHT: OPS GROUP COMMANDER'S LAST RIDE

Col. Christopher T. Amend, 507th Operations Group commander, flies a 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker for the last time at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, Oct. 12, 2017.

Col. Amend received his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1986 as a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University. He entered pilot training at Reese Air Force Base, Texas, then transferred to the Air Force Reserve in 2001, where he was assigned to numerous operational, command, and staff positions. He is a command pilot with more than 6,000 flying hours and has deployed in support of operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Provide Comfort, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

*We wish Col. Amend the best in his Air Force retirement; he will be sorely missed here in the 507th Air Refueling Wing.*







In honor of the Air Force's 70th Anniversary, a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 507th Air Refueling Wing operating out of Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., performed a flyover Sept. 16, 2017, at a University of Oklahoma football game at the Gaylord Family Oklahoma Memorial Stadium in Norman, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)